(d) the number of Anganwadi Kendras sanctioned in the State and their working conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) The Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme implemented through State covernments/UT Administration. Under the scheme, supplementary nutrition is provided to all children in the age group of 6 months to 6 years and pregnant and lactating mothers, as per schematic nutritional and feeding norms. As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, nutritious food is provided to children under ICDS in the state especially covering SC/ST people. The total children beneficiaries covered under the Supplementary Nutrition Programme in the State is 42,70,168 of which 8,45,058 is SC children and 4,86,486 is ST children.

(b) The funds released by Government of India as central share for supplementary nutrition, during 2008-09 is Rs. 189.95 crore. As reported by the State Government, total expenditure is Rs. 350.90 crore which includes state's share also.

(c) As reported by the State Government, the status of vacancies has been reviewed and instructions issued to fill up all the vacant posts.

(d) Total number of sanctioned Anganwadi Centres (AWCs)/Mini(AWCs) in Andhra Pradesh is 91,307 (till 31.3.2009) of which 79,515 are operational and in working condition as of now, as reported by the State Government.

Priyadarshini project

1017. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has started Priyadarshini Project for women in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of this project and in which States this project would initially be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry proposes to implement the Central Sector Scheme of Women's Empowerment & Livelihood Programme in the Mid-Gangetic Plains- Priyadarshini. The objective of this project is to empower in a holistic & sustainable manner vulnerable groups of women to enable them to address their social, political, legal, health and economic problems. The programme is assisted by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The Lead Programme Agency for implementation is the National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD). The project will be of 8 years duration. It will be implemented in select districts of the states of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.